

# Senate District Q

## Albert M. Kookesh, Democrat



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### OTHER:

I was born and raised in Alaska and live in the City of Angoon with my wife Sally. We raised our children in Angoon and now are helping to raise our grandchildren. I went to the University of Washington and obtained a Juris Doctorate in Law, and raised my family on commercial fishing. I have been a commercial fisherman for most of my life and own and operate a small lodge. I have served in the Alaska Legislature for 16 years in both the House and Senate. I was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1996 and became a member of the Senate in 2004. For the last 8 years I have represented the largest Senate District in the United States, representing 25 of 52 school districts. I am a member of the Bi-partisan working group, a group of Democrat and Republican Senators working together for Alaskans.

### STATEMENT:

Education: The State has a responsibility to educate all children on an equal basis. I support maximum education funding including the implementation of cost differential program for rural schools. I support forward funding for schools. This process helps administrators and teachers plan for future funding and employment needs. I have always been a strong advocate for early education. It is important to give our children a strong start.

Energy and Power cost equalization: We need Alaska energy plan which would outline a direction for Alaska as it relates to wind, hydro, gas, oil, and other alternative sources. I support adding enough funding to include schools, businesses and clinics back into PCE. I support putting hydroelectric systems in all the communities and villages of Southeast. We have the resources to be energy self-sufficient.

Alaska Marine Highway System: No matter how many roads are planned, argued about and—perhaps built eventually—the AMHS will always be needed. In Southeast Alaska it is our highway. I strongly believe the AMHS should be a stand-alone department with its own policy making board and directors. Until that happens, I will continue to support operating money for AMHS. I have served as the Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee so I can keep a close eye on AMHS.